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which it appeared that for the six months ending with September the mean for 1879 was fully 5° less than for 1878, the deficiency of day temperature amounting to nearly 10°. Of 11 deciduous trees, exclusive of oaks, the deficiency of growth during 1879 as compared with 1878 was 42 per cent.; of 17 evergreens of the pine tribe the deficiency was 20 per cent.; and of 7 oaks the deficiency was 10 per cent. The 7 oaks were of different species but they gave results closely agreeing with each other.—*Nature*.

BULLETIN OF THE TORREY BOTANICAL CLUB.—After ten years of quiet, unassuming life, this publication has blossomed out in a fashion that gratifies its friends. Vol. VII, No. 1, appears with a cover, 12 pages of reading matter and two plates. Four years ago the Bulletin complimented us by saying that we had patterned after it, and now we intend to return the compliment and say that the Bulletin has at last followed the example set by the GAZETTE as to number of pages and cover and surpassed us in the matter of plates. The number before us contains four articles, the first page being devoted to proceedings of the Torrey club; the next seven are taken up by an article from Mr. C. F. Austin, in which he makes some very severe criticisms upon Lesquereux and James' last paper upon North American Mosses. Then comes a description of a new fungus, by W. R. Gerard, and it is to this that the two plates are devoted. The new fungus is a species of *Simblum*, a genus hitherto considered exclusively tropical. The type specimens were collected in Long Island. The fourth paper is a short list of plants, being additions to the flora of Richmond county, N. Y.

So the number ends, with no intimation whether this new order of things is to be kept up or not, probably deeming it safer to promise nothing. But, seriously, we are charmed with this evidence of progress and wish our esteemed contemporary all the success it so richly deserves.

GOOD NEWS TO BOTANISTS.—The following correspondence explains itself. The facts stated may not be new to some exchangers, but have never been made known before from official sources.

LAFAYETTE, IND., Jan. 15, 1880.

D. M. KEY, P. M. General, Washington D. C.:

DEAR SIR:—Under the present law cannot labels such as the enclosed (an ordinary botanical label) be placed in a package of specimens of dried plants without subjecting them to higher than merchandise rates?

Very respectfully,

CHAS. R. BARNES.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, OFFICE OF THE FIRST ASSISTANT POSTMASTER GENERAL,

WASHINGTON, Jan. 24, 1880.

Respectfully returned to Charles R. Barnes, Esq., Lafayette, Tippecanoe county, Indiana, with the statement that, under the provisions of section 231, Postal Laws and Regulations, labels, such as that

submitted, may be sent with packages of botanical specimens without subjecting them to a higher rate of postage.

JAMES H. MARR,
For First Ass't P. M. General.

RHODE ISLAND PLANTS. —I have to report the finding of *Aster concolor*, L., at S. Kingston, R. I., by Miss Barstow, of Providence, and of *Aster Herveyi*, Gray, at Tiverton, R. I., by Prof. C. S. Sargent, of the Harvard Arboretum. They are good additions to our peculiar Flora.—W. W. BAILEY.

NEW SPECIES OF FUNGI, BY CHAS. H. PECK.—STEMONITIS MORGANI.—Plants crowded, growing from a well-developed hypothallus, one-half to two-thirds of an inch high; sporangia cylindrical, three or four times the length of the stem; stem black, shining, prolonged as a columella nearly to the apex of the sporangium; meshes of the capillitium very large, the knots sometimes thickened and subtriangular; spores violet-brown, globose, .0003 of an inch in diameter, with a slight ferruginous tint in the mass.

Decaying vegetable matter. Ohio. *A. P. Morgan*. Pennsylvania. *W. Barbeck*.

Externally this species closely resembles *S. fusca*, from which it seems necessary to separate it because of its paler slightly ferruginous-tinted spores and the very large surface meshes of its capillitium. The spores are larger and in the mass considerably darker than those of *S. ferruginea*.

CONIOTHYRIUM MINUTULUM.—Perithecia minute, .0045-.0055 of an inch broad, scattered, subglobose or depressed, black; spores minute, oblong-ovate or elliptical, colorless, .00015-.00016 of an inch long, about .00008 of an inch broad.

Whitened decorticated surface of hard wood. Vermont. *C. G. Pringle*.

The perithecia are so minute that they are scarcely visible to the naked eye. The upper part of the perithecium ruptures irregularly and at length falls away leaving the lower part sunk in the matrix.

This and the other Vermont species here described were collected by Mr. Pringle, but communicated to me by *Mr. C. J. Sprague*.

LEPTOTHYRIUM CHROMOSPERMUM.—Spots none; perithecia amphigenous, scattered, orbicular, membranous, easily separating from the matrix, wrinkled when dry, black, about .015 of an inch broad; spores numerous, regular, elliptical, colored, .00045-.00055 of an inch long, .00035-.0004 of an inch broad.

Living rose leaves. Ohio. *T. Taylor*.

The perithecia are easily scraped from the leaf by the blade of a pen-knife. The base is margined by a thin colorless membrane which comes off with the perithecia. The spores in the mass have a pale yellowish-brown color.

PHOMA ALBISTRATA.—Perithecia minute, .007-.008 of an inch broad, seated on a thin whitish crustaceous stratum, scattered, conical or subglobose, nearly free, easily separated from the matrix, black;